

IN HONOR OF ROBERT M. MORGENTHAU, MANHATTAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND CHAIRMAN, MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE—A LIVING MEMORIAL TO THE HOLOCAUST

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, it is my very great personal pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to Robert M. Morgenthau, New York County's District Attorney and Chairman of the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Mr. Morgenthau is being honored at the Museum's Heritage Dinner, and I would like to honor him myself, today.

Mr. Morgenthau, as an elected official, an advocate, and a selfless leader, epitomizes the very best of public service. He served his country as a naval reservist and then as a distinguished naval officer during World War II, achieving the rank of Lt. Commander. He was asked to serve the Nation once again as a U.S. Attorney, appointed by President John F. Kennedy in 1961. We are most fortunate that his pursuit of justice brought him to watch over our great borough of Manhattan, where he has been the District Attorney of New York County since 1974 and has won re-election eight times.

His wisdom, his energy, and his leadership have made New York a better city. His tireless devotion to the law resulted in his establishing units that oversee the prosecution of crimes against society's most vulnerable victims, and he has pursued major cases that affect the economic and social viability of New York City.

Since 1982, Mr. Morgenthau has lent his talent and vision to the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. With the memory of those who were murdered in the Holocaust always in his thoughts, he has seen the Museum through two construction projects and helped raise millions of dollars to ensure its future. Because of Mr. Morgenthau's leadership, the Museum, which is located five blocks south of the World Trade Center site, began building its new wing on November 27, 2001, mere months after the worst terrorist attacks this nation has ever witnessed. Located across New York Harbor from the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, the new wing will incorporate centers for memory, learning, performance, and exhibitions. It will also incorporate the strength and humanity of a man who has steered the Museum through both rough seas and calm waters. Mr. Morgenthau's tireless determination, infinite supply of good counsel, and unconditional devotion are as fundamental to the Museum's existence as the foundation on which it stands. The new wing, which is just about complete, will be named for Robert M. Morgenthau on April 6, 2003.

It gives me great pleasure to honor Robert M. Morgenthau, on behalf of the people of New York City. I thank him for ensuring justice for all.

IMPRISONMENT OF DR. NGUYEN DAN QUE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn the arrest of Dr. Nguyen Dan Que by the Vietnamese Communist government on March 17th, 2003. I am outraged to hear that these Communist officials detained Dr. Que at a local security station in Saigon, while they had their secret police break into his house to seize his cellular phones, laptop computer, and collection of written essays.

As you may know, Dr. Que is the most vocal and ardent advocate in Viet Nam for freedom, democracy and human rights for almost the past 30 years. When Saigon fell into Communist hands in 1975, Dr. Que refused to leave Viet Nam, and later turned down a government offer to resettle in the United States. Dr. Que could have continued a successful medical practice in America, but he consciously chose to remain in Viet Nam to speak out and defend the human dignity and rights of all Vietnamese people.

Because of his unrelenting efforts in the pursuit for freedom and human rights for Viet Nam, the Vietnamese government imprisoned Dr. Que in 1978. He remained in detention, often under inhumane conditions, for 10 years, pending formal charges and a trial. During this time, he was tortured, beaten, and placed into solitary confinement where his hands and feet were chained together. Due to the continuous intervention of the Congressional Dialogue on Viet Nam and international human rights groups, Dr. Que was finally released in 1988 after 10 years in prison.

On May 11, 1990, Dr. Que founded the Non-Violent Movement for Human Rights. He issued a manifesto appealing to all individuals and organizations inside Viet Nam and throughout the world for support of his moderate, non-violent struggle to establish human rights for all Vietnamese people. He demanded that the Vietnamese government invest in the welfare of its people, and reduce the size of its military. His manifesto also stipulated that the Communist government of Viet Nam cease its aggressive actions towards neighboring countries, and to bring about lasting peace for the region in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Que was arrested again in June 1990, and forcibly returned to prison without trial. His family received information that he was tortured and had received emergency medical care several times due to these beatings. Finally Dr. Que was released from prison in September 1998, but remained under house arrest with constant government surveillance and restrictions on any use of communication, such as phone calls and letters.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Que's arrest by the Vietnamese government comes at a time when the world is preoccupied with the impending conflict in Iraq. I believe they made this decision on the basis that we, the international community, would not likely express strong condemnation towards their actions—but they

are wrong. I urge my colleagues to join me now to collectively voice our strong opposition to the arrest of Dr. Que by the Vietnamese Communist government and demand his release immediately.

ELKS CLUBS CREATE ARMY OF HOPE TO HELP MILITARY FAMILIES

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, in a shining example of how Americans pull together in times of crisis, the Elks USA has pledged its support of the families of Reservists and National Guard Members who have been called to active duty. The Army of Hope, comprised of volunteers coordinated by the Elks, will assist families with all sorts of needs to ease their stress and financial burdens.

This could not be a more welcome and needed gesture of support and I am pleased to place the attached letter from the Elks to the President, of which I received a copy, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. We should all applaud them for their patriotism. This is a trying time for our military families. Supporting them is one of the most patriotic things we as Americans can do.

ELKS USA,

Richland, WA, February 21, 2003.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President of the United States of America, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: The families who have a father or mother in the military reserves or National Guard called to active duty during our War on Terrorism and the current Iraq crisis will experience severe economic burdens as well as emotional stress. As National President of the one million men and women who comprise the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks, I am writing to express our organization's support of these families.

Mr. President, the Elks have mobilized the volunteers as an Army of Hope. We are teachers, lawyers, accountants and health workers. We are carpenters, electricians, mechanics, plumbers and tradesmen of every type. We are the hearts and hands of our communities. We will help with the kids, make minor home repairs and provide other assistance to these families of our service men and women as they attempt to keep hearth and home together during these trying times.

I cannot begin to stress to you our Order's willingness and preparedness to lend any further assistance as directed. We are committed to do everything you request of us and for these valiant people and their families. Mr. President, please know the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks is here for our nation.

Pledging you the full support of the men and women of the Elks, I remain,

Sincerely Yours,

ROGER R. TRUE,
*Grand Exalted Ruler
(National President).*